(a) whether Government has formulated a National Policy for upliftment of disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details and the features thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to promote employment opportunities among the disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The salient features of the National Policy formulated in February, 2006 are:-

(i) Physical Rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling & medical interventions and provision of aids & appliances. It also includes the development of rehabilitation professionals.

(ii) Educational Rehabilitation including vocational training and

(iii) Economic Rehabilitation for a dignified life in society. In addition the policy also focuses upon rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities, barrier free environment, social security, research etc.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The following steps have been taken to promote employment opportunities among the disabled persons:-

(i) Reservation in Govt. service under Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (hereafter "PD Act");

(ii) Implementation of a scheme for providing incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to the persons with disabilities;

(iii) Soft loans for self-employment ventures under the schemes of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation;

(iv) Vocational rehabilitation Centres under the schemes of Ministry of Labour & Employment;

(v) Employment in the schemes of Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas as per Section 40 of the PD Act.

Hostels for SC/ST students

1527. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for providing hostel facilities in educational institutes for girls and boys belonging to SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds allocated and spent so far for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing the Centrally Sponsored "**Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna**" for construction of Hostels for SC Girls and Boys through Field implementing Agencies (States/UTs/Universities/NGOs). Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing the scheme namely, Hostel for Scheduled Tribe Boys and Girls. Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Information is given in the Statement-III

Statement-I

Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Caste Boys and Girls

"Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna"

The Primary objective of the scheme is to attract the implementing agencies for undertaking hostel construction programme, especially for SC Girls towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their drop out rate.

Preference is given to integrated hostels (which are part of established educational institutions) over stand alone hostels. Focus is given for construction of hostels for middle and higher secondary levels of education. However, hostels can also be constructed for college and University levels of education.

The expenditure on maintenance of the hostels is borne by the implementing agencies concerned from their own funds.

Funding Pattern

Hostels for SC Girls: (a) 100% central assistance would be provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central & State Universities/Institutions; (b) 90% central assistance would be provided to NGOs in the private sector, only for expansion of the existing hostel facilities.

Hostels for SC Boys: 45% central assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the private sector, only for expansion of their existing hostels (the remaining 55% cost to be borne by the agency concerned and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 10:45). In case the State Government/UT Administration concerned do not contribute their expected share of 45% to the NGOs/Universities as prescribed above, the share of the former will also have to be borne by the NGOs/Universities concerned.

Statement-II

Scheme of Hostel for Scheduled Tribe Boys and Girls

Under the Scheme, central assistance is given to State Government/UT Administrations for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels. State Governments get 100% central assistance for construction of all Girls hostels and also for construction of Boys hostels in naxal affected areas. In case of Boys hostel in non-naxal affected areas, cost of construction of hostel is shared by Central Government and State Governments on 50:50 basis. In case of UT Administration, they get 100% central assistance for construction of both Boys and Girls hostels.

2. All the Universities are eligible for 100% central share for construction of Girls hostel whereas for Boys hostel, Central Universities are eligible for 90% central assistance and other Universities are eligible for 45% central assistance. Hostel for Vocational Training Centers for ST Girls and Boys are also funded on the same criteria as other hostels. The number of seats in a hostel is up to 100. The hostels are for Primary, Middle, Secondary, College and University levels.

Statement-III

Details of fund allocated and spent during 2005-06 to 2007-08 for Hostels for SC/ST students

(Rs. In crore)

S.No.	Name of scheme	2005-06		2006-07	2007-08		
		B E	Expenditure	B E	Expenditure	B E	Expenditure
1	SC Girls and Boys	47	52.25	62	54.04	67	67.28
2	ST Girls and Boys	0	15.65	32	28.11	37	37

Scholarships to OBC students in Maharashtra

†1528. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has sought grant from the Central Government for providing post-matric scholarship to the backward class students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much grants is likely to be given by the Central Government to Maharashtra during the year 2008 and 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Against the demand of Rs.230 crores from the State Government of Maharashtra under the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students, a sum of Rs.11.82 crores has been released during 2008-09 on the basis of notional allocation of funds to the States out of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 134 crore for the whole country.

Funds for tribals in Orissa

1529. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total amount sanctioned by Government for Orissa under various schemes for tribal development from 2000-01 to 2008-09 alongwith the percentage of its utilization during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): The details of funds released to the State of Orissa under various schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of tribal people from 2000-01 to 2008-09 (up to 30.11.2008) and percentage utilization, are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.